IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Guido KRUPP Art Unit: 1635

Appln. No.: 10/526,487 Examiner: To Be Assigned

Int'l Filing Date: September 2, 2003 Confirmation No.: 1084

For: Improved Methods for the Synthesis Atty. Docket: 19006.005 of Nucleic Acids

Preliminary Amendment

Mail Stop PCT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicant hereby requests entry of the following amendments in the above-captioned application.

In the event that extensions of time beyond those petitioned for herewith are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Applicant does not believe any additional fees are due in conjunction with this filing. However, if any additional fees are required in the present application, including any fees for extensions of time, authorization to charge such fees is given in the accompanying transmittal letter.